

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /046 W
----- 017843

R 151850Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7253

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (MOELLEMANN, JUERGEN W.), GW

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH SECDEF BY FDP

DEFENSE SPOKESMAN

1. FDP BUNDESTAG DEFENSE SPOKESMAN JUERGEN W. MOELLEMANN HAS ON TWO RECENT OCCASIONS APPROACHED AN EMBASSY OFFICER ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS PAYING A CALL ON SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RUMSFELD IN MAY. MOELLEMANN EXPLAINED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH SECDEF IN ORDER TO DEVELOP A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF US THINKING ON DEFENSE MATTERS. MOELLEMANN VISITED LONDON AT THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY WHERE HE MET WITH STATE MINISTER FOR DEFENSE WILLIAM ROGERS TO DISCUSS STANDARDIZATION IN NATO AND THE BRITISH CONCEPT OF NAVAL OPERATIONS. HE ALSO SAW FOREIGN MINISTER CALLAGHAN. MOELLEMANN HAS BEEN A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE FRG DECISION TO CONSTRUCT TWELVE CLASS 122 FRIGATES.

2. COMMENT: MOELLEMANN IS RELATIVELY NEW TO THE JOB OF DEFENSE SPOKESMAN FOR HIS PARTY, A PARTY NOT TRADITIONALLY NOTED FOR ITS INTEREST IN SECURITY QUESTIONS. MOELLEMANN HAS TAKEN HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES SERIOUSLY AND HAS MADE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO MASTER THE SUBJECT MATTER. THE EMBASSY APPRECIATES THE CONSTRAINTS ON THE SECDEF'S TIME, BUT NEVERTHELESS HOPES THAT A SHORT COURTESY CALL COULD BE SCHEDULED. SHOULD THIS NOT PROVE

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FEASIBLE, PERHAPS A SHORT MEETING COULD BE ARRANGED

WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND/OR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS. SUCH A MEETING WOULD GIVE DOD OFFICIALS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE APPROPRIATE POINTS ON THE US-FRG SECURITY RELATIONSHIP TO A SENIOR BUNDESTAG OFFICIAL. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES CONSIDERATION SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO THE FACT THAT MOELLEMANN'S PARTY WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A ROLE, ALBEIT LIMITED, IN DETERMINING FRG SECURITY POLICY EVEN AFTER THE OCTOBER ELECTION.

3. REQUEST GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING SUCH A MEETING.

HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN04316
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760097-0887
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760362/aaaaccaw.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH SECDEF BY FDP DEFENSE SPOKESMAN
TAGS: OVIP, GE, (MOELLEMANN, JUERGEN W)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006